been careful so early as 1074 to enhance the revenue from that source, but the result so far had not been very satisfactory, though it was said in the G. O. issued in 1090 that a Special Officer would be appointed to thoroughly investigate the problem. It was high time to depute an expert to study the problem and find out the various uses to which the different varieties of minor produce could be put. He was sure that such a step would increase the revenue considerably and would greatly help the Ayurveda Department in securing the several drugs required.

The Member suggested the need for the appointment of a Financial Officer in the Huzur to examine the finances of the different departments and keep himself and the Government in close touch with their financial policy.

An undesirable feature of the finances of the State was excess of expenditure over income and the first step to be taken was, therefore, to curtail the disbursements. The chief item which contributed to the high expenditure was under salaries and allowances. Though from 1080 the charges under the above item for the Peishkars were on the increase, the work they had to do was decreasing in volume. Further, the Government had themselves to animadvert on the work of the Peishkars more than once. The Member detailed how unsatisfactory the work of the Peishkars and Tahsildars was in some of the branches of land revenue administration and also in their tours. If the people were kept informed of the circuit programme of the Peishkars, perhaps that would in some way mitigate the evils complained of. In view of the criticisms made by the Member, he proposed reduction being made from their salaries and of the establishments and the savings thus effected utilized in worsk of public utility.

In regard to the Public Works Department, the complaint was that there was no proper and effective supervision, that there was no sense of proportion in regard to the salaries of the various grades of the establishment and that there was decided room for reduction of the staff.

The Member then took a survey of the operations of the Sanitary Department, explained how more useful work was done in the earlier years at less cost, described how unsatisfactory the work of the department was in combating the spread of epidemic diseases and affording relief to the sufferers and how the department had failed to maintain rural sanitation and improve the public health of people in the villages. In these circumstances, the Member urged that the only course to be taken was to curtail the expenditure of the department or to place the department under a competent officer.

In conclusion, the Member spoke against the principle of granting personal allowances to officers and advocated substantial reduction under that head.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

II. MAIN HEADS OF REVENUE.

(I) Land Revenue.

3 Hardships caused to the poor people of the Nedumangad taluk by the levy of high rates of *tharavila*, *thadivila*, etc., on *puduval* lands.

Mr. M. Subramonia Pillai (Member, Nedumangad taluk) said that, at the last settlement, the *tharavila* and assessment for the *puduval* lands in the taluk were fixed at one rupee and one *fanam*, per acre respectively. The rates of *tharavila* and assessment were revised subsequently and at present the minimum rates of *tharavila* were Rs. 10 and Rs. 5 per acre and the minimum assessment was Re. 1 per acre. In actual registry much higher rates than the minima were fixed by the Revenue authorities and the rates so fixed were often lower or higher according as the applicants were rich or poor. In the re-survey of the taluk, several registered holdings were treated as *puduvals* and *vice versa* and the complaints of the ryots were unheeded. He requested that the matter be enquired into and the mistakes

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rectified before the registry was proceeded with. The Member prayed that, where a land was in the occupation of any person, it should invariably be registered in his name. In regard to *tharavila*, he suggested that a maximum rate be fixed for the lands in different parts of the State, as that alone would put a stop to the vagaries of the Revenue officers.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

4. Desirability of reducing the *tharavila* for *puduval* lands and of fixing a maximum rate for the same.

Mr. C. Y. Ramakrishna Iyer (Member, T. I. C., Parur) represented that, in the absence of a maximum rate of *tharavila* for *puduval* lands, the Revenue authorities had absolute power to fix any rate they pleased. That caused very great hardship and loss to the poor ryots.

The inaccuracies of the recent survey brought additional troubles in their train. Portions of their registered holdings on which trees of over 60 years of age were standing and which had been in their enjoyment for a very long time were being treated as *poramboke* and the occupants were fined for encroachment and evicted therefrom. In view to avoid the trouble and expense of costly litigation against the Government, the occupants oftentimes paid the high rates of *tharavila* fixed by the Revenue officials. The Member, therefore, prayed that a maximum rate of *tharavila* be fixed for *puduval* lands as being the only solution of the difficulty.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

5. Desirability of excluding from Reserves, and bringing under registry, all swampy areas adjoining habitations or lands permanently cultivated.

Mr. P. Narayana Pillai (Member, Pattanapuram taluk) said that, with a view to increase the area under wet cultivation in the State, the under-mentioned blocks of land in the reserves which were fit for paddy cultivation should be disafforested and thrown open for registry:—

1. Nedumpacha, Anapatta-Konkal and Iratta Kalunkupacha in the Arienkavu Reserve;

2. Karimpanachal in the Ayiranallur Reserve;

3. Kadumakode, Kazhaviyodu, Mathandankarapacha, Ezhamkulampacha and Kalyani Karikam in the Yerur Reserve; and

4. Peruvukuzhi in the Shaliakara Reserve.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

6. Desirability of excluding from Reserves, and bringing under registry, all grass lands and swampy areas, for the extension of paddy cultivation.

Mr. Kochukora Ittiavira (Member, Chengannur taluk) said that, with the abolition of *malavarom* cultivation in the State, the people of Chengannur taluk and more especially those inhabiting the Rani and Kumbazha *pakuthies* experienced very great difficulties in finding a means of living. He suggested that the extensive *eata* forests and swampy lands available in many of the reserved forests be granted to the people of the taluk at least for cultivation, if they could not be given on permanent registry. It was to be expected that the forest officers would object to the proposal, but their objections should be disregarded and the lands granted for cultivation in the interests alike of the people and of the Government.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

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